21. To induce more investment for R&D activities, a weighted deduction of 125% on the sums paid to any university, college or an institution or a Scientific research association for the purposes of scientific, social or statistical research has been provided.

22. Information Technology Act, 2000 has been enacted. This act deals with Cyber Security, Cyber Crime and other information security related legal aspects. This will encourage expansion of e-commerce through internet.

23. Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) has set up a business support Centre in the USA, which is operational since November, 1999, to promote business for STP units and provide marketing support to SMEs.

Job opportunities for I.T. Professionals in U.K.

2674. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO : Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether U.K.'s computer software and service association has invited Indian Software Industry for entering into partnership in e-commerce, banking, pharmaceuticals and telecom;

(b) if so, whether Indian I. T. professionals would be offered employment in U.K.; and

(c) the number of such professionals to be appointed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : (a) to (c) National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) of India has recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Computer Software and Service Associations (CSSA) of U.K., to increase co-operation between the two countries in IT software and services sector. This is likely to increase business to business interactions between two countries, and also off-shore and on-site assignments for IT professionals.

Impact of US attack on Software Export

2675. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO :

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the Software exports made by the country during the last two years;